

In her long career, Celia Cruz never forgot the country of her birth, evoking Cuba in every performance, but never returning to her homeland. She was a political exile who never returned to Cuba, not even when her father died, denied entry by Fidel Castro, who was still angry at her defection many years before. When Fidel Castro came to power in 1959, Celia was the lead singer of La Sonora Matancera, Cuba's most popular orchestra. The group headlined Havana's world-famous Tropicana nightclub and casino and toured the United States and Central and South America. La Sonora Matancera's fame and frequent tours provided them an escape route, by pretending they were going on another tour, never returning to Cuba.

I am honored to be here today to talk about a music legend. She recorded more than 70 albums, many of them gold and platinum records, and received twelve Grammy nominations, winning for the first time in 1989. Celia was honored with stars and street sections in some of the most well-known avenues of the world. Hollywood gave her a star on the Walk of Fame in 1987. Miami's Calle Ocho was named "Celia Cruz Way" and presented her with a star, an honor she has received in other cities such as San José, Costa Rica and the Plaza Galería in Mexico City, Mexico. She received many awards and distinctions, which include a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Smithsonian Institution, the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award from the Hispanic Heritage Awards, and in 1994, she received in the White House the highest honor the United States can bestow on an artist: the National Endowment for the Arts.

Celia Cruz was a musical icon that made Cuban music known beyond our national borders while touching different generations. Lovers of Latin music worldwide embraced her style and boundless energy on the stage as they enjoyed her contagious music and rhythms. For the Cuban American exile community, she was the link between young Cuban Americans and their parents' generation, making Cuba a reality to the younger generation by providing them with the music that entertained their parents and their grandparents.

Celia's fondest dream never became a reality: the opportunity of returning to a free and democratic Cuba. This woman who sang for presidents and heads of state worldwide simply wanted to return one day to the country she had known. She hoped to one day perform again in the land of her birth, and to utter her signature catch phrase "Azucar" to her fellow Cubans. She left us before her dream became a reality, but I say "Azucar" in her honor and in her memory.

Celia, I know that you can hear us this evening. We love you and your music will continue to live in our hearts. We will never forget you. I promise you, Celia, that I will continue to work tirelessly in the U.S. Congress for your dream of a free and democratic Cuba. At that time, the Cuban people will once again be able to enjoy your music filled with rich, Cuban rhythms and Afro beats "en libertad"—in freedom. May you rest in peace, Celia!

PAYING TRIBUTE TO EDWARD ATENCIO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress today to recognize the devoted service that Edward Atencio has provided to the students of his hometown in San Luis, Colorado. Edward is retiring from Centennial High School after having served as Athletic Director for the last 31 years. I commend him for the positive impact that he has had upon so many young individuals in my district.

Edward moved to the San Luis Valley as a small child with his parents and two brothers. He graduated from Adams State College in 1968 with a Bachelor's degree in Health, Physical Education, and Recreation in 1968. He proceeded to obtain a Master's degree from Adams State College four years later and ultimately obtained his Type D administrator certificate at Western State College. Edward's qualifications as Athletic Director also include advanced coursework at the University of Colorado, Colorado State University, and the University of Northern Colorado.

Edward's first endeavor after joining the Centennial faculty was to build a track facility in order to create a track and field team. Edward's dedication to his students has persisted over the past 35 years, teaching close to 4,600 students and coaching approximately 1,400 student athletes over the course of his career. Dating back to 1978, Edward has received 40 distinguished awards in addition to his nominations for Colorado Prep Coach of the Year and Colorado Teacher of the Year. While Edward is grateful for the personal recognition he has received, he most appreciates the gratitude that he receives from his former students and athletes. Given his invitation to return as a substitute teacher, Edward's involvement with Centennial High School will likely continue even after his formal retirement as Athletic Director position.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct privilege to recognize Edward's achievements and laudable record of public service before you today. Individuals like Edward embody the dedication and commitment necessary to impart strong values to future generations and allow them the opportunity to succeed. I commend Edward for his long and prolific career and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

SO FAR ACROSS THE SHORES

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I present a writing by Albert Carey Caswell, one of our Capitol historians, dedicated to the United Kingdom—in honor of Tony Blair's address to the joint session of Congress.

To send our fine sons and daughters off to die, off to death and war to there throughout the ages, to share such pain, such grief, such death and gore . . . as together we've endured mothers & fathers, sisters & brothers,

husbands & wives the more . . . who've lost such loves, oh what a burden bore.

For we are such fine friends . . . so very far across the shores as here so lies in time, now etched in history adorned, such a great tribute to our love . . . as has so endured lies such a bond from so very far across the shores, with such unity as woven . . . all throughout time all the more.

For from these two great nations . . . as there would so rise a love and kinship, such that wars would not let despise, that even time and distance . . . still could not deny as a true and fine meeting of the minds . . . as a uniting of brothers and sisters . . . as there bringing such tears to eyes.

For once upon a time . . . from this the great land of kings and queens of so divine came colonies, from far across the seas . . . with such splendid people, with such great dreams, so very fine and with this journey came, a great revolution of the same . . . as a bond dissolved and wars so intervened in time.

And as then, throughout the many years as again . . . such a cherished bond, as so formed here . . . as such a splendid reconciliation, as so appeared and throughout war worlds & evils endured, together as friends, to this world we've stood as one so very clear.

For from this great land has come, such cherished gifts to us among as our father, our true beloved son . . . one George Washington, who to this nation his heart has sung and another such splendid gift . . . that of "hope" by a man named "Bob" . . . whose America's heart has forever rung.

And to this very day, as spreads so far across the way ingrained within our very hearts, lies the United Kingdom . . . for whom we all so pray who have so over the many decades, made our Nation shine in so many ways, into this promised land we see today.

And as the years so pass within our hearts we ask, that this fine bond which we've so made . . . shall to ever last for this our great love & friendship which has so evolved . . . recorded now in history, has forever stood steadfast.

Now as such fine friends, so very far across the shores as so lies such a bond, as one for all and all for one . . . into our love as poured . . . as lies there forever more across the high seas & distant shores, a blessing to two countries . . . within one another this love shall endure.

HONORING THE DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN CONYERS, Jr.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2003

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Detroit Historical Museum on the occasion of the museum's 75th anniversary. The museum, along with Historic Fort Wayne, the Dossin Great Lakes Museum and the Detroit Historical Society, comprise the Detroit Historical Museums and Society, and I commend them on the wonderful job they have done chronicling Detroit's three-hundred year history.

The idea of recording the city's history through museums developed in 1914, when historian Clarence M. Burton donated his extensive collection of historical papers to the Detroit Public Library. The donation of these